till 31st December, 2009. It is expected to provide about 900 scholarships for Indian students to pursue Erasmus Mundus Masters' courses at selected Consortia of Universities, EU Authorities have already advertised the offer of scholarships for selection of candidates from India for the year 2005-06.

(c) As per the document signed with European Union, Indian students including SC/ST and economically backward categories will apply for scholarships in their individual capacity directly to the Consortium of Universities for respective Erasmus Mundus Master Course for study. This Consortium of Universities implementing Erasmus Mundus course will have to follow the norms, procedure and criteria evolved and approved by European Union for selection, placement of students and award of degrees. Students would be selected on merit and verification of academic credentials.

Sanskrit as compulsory subject in Kendriya Vidyalayas

695. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sanskrit is taught as a compulsory subject in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would consider teaching other Indian Languages as well with a view to promote national integration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Sanskrit is taught in Kendriya Vidyalayas as one of the compulsory subjects from Classes VI to VIII. In Classes IX and X where students have to study two languages, they have the option to take Sanskrit as one of the languages. Sanskrit can also be taken as additional subject in these classes. As per the existing provisions of the KVS, the students of Classes XI and XII can opt from Sanskrit either as a compulsory language subject or as an elective subject. The work of teaching Sanskrit in Classes IX to XII is entrusted to part-time/contractual teachers provided the number of students exercising the option to learn Sanskrit is 20 or more in a Class.

(c) There is already a provision for students of KVS to opt for regional language/mother tongue in Classes VI to VIII. Arrangement for part-time

contractual teacher for teaching other Indian languages can be made provided 20 or more students in a class opt for the same. In Classes XI and XII, any other language other than the compulsory core language can also be opted for as an elective subject.

Courses in water management and water harvesting

696. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has decided to introduce courses in water management and water harvesting in all the universities;

(b) if so, whether the course/syllabus has been finalized;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether any Expert Committee has been constituted to look into the finalisation of syllabus; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the UGC has decided to introduce add-on courses of Watershed Technology/ Management in universities covered under Section 2 (f) and 12 (B) of the UGC Act, 1956 and are interested/desirous of introducing the courses in their respective universities.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A circular has been issued by the UGC along with a model syllabus to all the universities in the country, with a request to submit proposals for the courses in Watershed technology/management under the UGC Scheme of Career Oriented Programme.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Introduction of grading system for board examinations

†697. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme regarding declaration of result of board examination of 10th and 12th standard according to grading system in all the States; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.